

Handbell Syllabus 2016-2017

**Teacher: Mr. Corbin Rasmussen**

**School Phone: (208) 745-7704**

**Email:** **crasmussen@sd251.org**

**Course Objectives:**

 The purpose of this course is to gain understanding of handbell notation, instrument care, and music fundamentals. Students will have many opportunities to play for personal enjoyment and perform a variety of literature. All music that is included in the curriculum is selected based on its place in music history, educational content, playing demand, and support for modern and ongoing compositions and composers of the handbell music art.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. **BE NICE!!** Respect your teachers, your classmates, and yourself.
2. Arrive at rehearsal/class on time. “On time” means you give yourself enough time to pick up your music folder, have a pencil ready, and are in your seat when the class is ready to begin.
3. No food or drink allowed in the classroom room during instructional time. Only exception is water in a closed container or bottle.
4. No gum EVER! Gum is to be spit out at the beginning of class as you walk into the room. If you are caught chewing gum during class time you will lose daily participation points.
5. No cell phones allowed during instructional time, if seen on your cell phone, it will go on Mr. Rasmussen’s piano until the end of class regardless of circumstance. If this continues to be an issue, cell phones will be taken to the office and will need to be picked up after school, or we will have a meeting with Mr. Lords and a parent about proper use of technology in class.
6. If you are needing to use the bathroom you are expected to sign out and sign back when upon arrival back to class. In order to leave the classroom for a bathroom visit, you must leave your electronic device (cell phone, iPod, tablet, etc.) with me in exchange. If bathroom use is excessive, then a ‘limited use card’ will be issued to the entire class, which will have to be signed by Mr. Rasmussen before exiting the classroom.

**Grading Policy:**

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| **A** | **94% - 100%** |
|  **A-** | **90% - 93%** |
|  **B+** | **87% - 89%** |
| **B** | **83% - 86%** |
|  **B-** | **80% - 82%** |
|  **C+** | **77% - 79%** |
| **C** | **73% - 76%** |
|  **C-** | **70% - 72%** |
|  **D+** | **67% - 69%** |
| **D** | **63% - 66%** |
|  **D-** | **60% - 62%** |
| **F** | **0% - 59%** |

Handbell Choir seldom requires written homework or take home assignments, for the most part, your work is done in class by participating and being a responsible member of the ensemble. In addition to grades, in order to participate in extracurricular choir activities, each student is required to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Those who fall below this point will be unable to participate with the choir.

***Assignments:***

**Summative: 50%**

Concerts 500 points

Formal Assessments 50 points per Assessment

**Formative: 40%**

Daily Participation 10 points per day

Quizzes 50 points

**Homework: 10%**

**10%** Listening Assignments 50 points per Assignment

**Concerts:**

Concert attendance is **MANDATORY.** If you don’t attend the required concerts it will severely affect your grade in this class. Call time for singers is forty-five minutes before the concert starts. (e.g. if the concert starts at 7:00, singers arrive no later than 6:15 and report to your ensemble’s predetermined room)

**Formal Assessments:**

 In general, formal assessments will take place in the form of part checks and tests. These tests usually take place in the classroom in groups of 2-3, and occur once or twice in the course of a trimester. We will also have a few written assessments throughout the course of the trimester on music theory topics.

**Daily Participation:**

 You will earn 10 points everyday you come to class prepared and ready to participate fully in the day’s rehearsal. You will lose points if you are: goofing off, distracting fellow students, eating or drinking anything other than water, chewing gum, not sitting in assigned section/seat, excessive talking, etc. Any time a student feels unable to participate in the day’s activities, (illness, injury, etc.) they will be expected to complete a rehearsal observation form to earn back points lost for not participating in the day’s activities.

**Listening Assignments:**

 Every two weeks you will be required to listen to a musical selection of a varied genre via the choir web page. You will be asked to respond to the listening example in various ways, including some of your overall impressions about the piece. On occasion a “listening quiz” may be administered in class that pertains to the online listening assignment for that two-week period.

**Website and Information:**

The official website for the Rigby Choirs is choir.rigbytrojans.org. This site is continuously being improved and updated, and contains a calendar of all the choral events and performances for the school year. Additionally, other area concerts, assignments, project details, forms, practice recordings, etc., are posted online. Please review the calendar and your class page often.

**Music Checkout:**

 Music is owned by Rigby High School Choir department and checked out via Mr. Rasmussen. Any music checked out to your student that is not returned, or is returned in less than optimal condition, will be charged a **minimum** of $3.00 per piece of music that is lost or damaged.

**Fees:**

Students will be responsible to acquire their own handbell gloves and an outfit for their concert attire. More information about purchasing options will be given in class. There a few activities in which the choir participates that have associated fees for travel, such as tours. In general, these activities are optional; however, those who commit to go are responsible to cover their own cost. More information regarding fundraisers and other details will be presented in class at a later date.



*Please review and sign the accompanying form and return to Mr. Rasmussen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**I have read and understand the expectations of the Rigby High School Choir Program as outlined in the syllabus.**

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date